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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,845	01/12/2001	Pierre D. Grondin	PGI6044P0310US	1863

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WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER
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EXAMINER

GUARIELLO, JOHN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1771	9

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/759845	Applicant(s)	Grandin et al.
Examiner	John Guarnello	Group Art Unit	1771

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/4/2002, 2/10/2003

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

15. The Examiner acknowledges papers # 6-8, the change of address of 11/4/2002; extension of time, and the amendment of 2/10/2003.

16. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Specification

17. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the specification describes “thickness” but the units attached are for **basis weight**, see page 4, line 8 and page 5, line 27. Since the newly amended claims 6 and 12 state “basis weight” there must be clear support for this in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

18. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

20. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim et al. 5,308,691.

Applicant's arguments regarding Doyle have been persuasive. New grounds of rejection over Lim follow.

Lim describes a composite sheet corresponding to the claimed laminate, (see abstract). Lim describes the spunbonded polypropylene fiber sheet with high water vapor penetration which can be used for housewrap, (see abstract). Lim describes the basis weight of the spunbonded polypropylene is about 17-100 g/ square meter which overlaps the amount in the claimed invention, (column 2, lines 49-51). Lim describes a spunbond sheet with a meltblown layer, (column 3, lines 34-43), with the desired microporosity and barrier properties corresponding to the claimed breathable film coating of the claimed invention. Lim describes machine direction and crossdirection tensile strengths in Table 1, (column 6, lines 15-28). Lim differs from the claimed invention because it does not state film. It is the Examiner's position that the

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meltblown layer could be considered a film layer since it meets the definition of “film” as set forth in **Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition**, page 435, which states a film is: “a thin skin or membranous covering or a thin covering or coating”. Thus, it is the Examiner’s position the nonwoven meltblown layer is the film.

Regarding the amounts of the components of the breathable coating one of ordinary skill in this art would be able to optimize these parameters because the reference describes the basic chemistry and structure of the claimed laminate and desire the same performance standards.

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action

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and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Guarriello whose telephone number is 703-308-3209. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris, can be reached on (703) 308-2414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-5408.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

John J. Guarriello:gj

Patent Examiner

May 27, 2003

May 30, 2003